

# LANCASTER GAZETTE.

"PLACE NONE BUT AMERICANS ON GUARD."—GEORGE WASHINGTON.

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LANCASTER, OHIO, THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 13, 1895.

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## The Lancaster Gazette.

CITY OF LANCASTER.

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Thursday Morning, Dec. 13, 1895.

Correspondence.

CINCINNATI, Aug. 25, 1895.

M. W. Wm. J. Bess, P. G. M.

Dear Sir and Brother:—Impressed with

the propriety of presenting to the Grand

Lodge, and through it to the Fraternity

generally, some appropriate notice of the

Masonic life and character of our lamented

brother, the late M. Z. Kreider, M. W.

Past Grand Master, and not possessing

the materials whereby to prepare it, I

am constrained to look to some one who

by long and intimate acquaintance with

him, is better able than myself to do the

subject justice. In looking abroad a-

mong the Brethren of Ohio, I find no one

who, by eminent qualifications for the

task, and by long and intimate acquaint-

ance with the deceased, is better suited

to the undertaking than yourself. May I,

therefore, indulge the hope, that you will

undertake this fraternal duty, being gov-

erned in its performance entirely by your

own judgment?

Have you heard from you on

this subject, I am most respectfully,

and fraternally yours,

W. B. DODDS.

LANCASTER, (O.) Oct. 11th, '95.

Most Worshipful Brother:

I have the honor to acknowledge the

receipt of your communication of August

last, requesting me to furnish you with

some appropriate notice of the Masonic life

and character of our late lamented M. W.

M. Z. Kreider, in order to its presentation

to the Fraternity of Ohio, through the

Grand Lodge of the State.

I have delayed until this date to do so,

not because the task is not a congenial

one, and in entire harmony with my

feelings, but because the physical debility

incident to my own shattered health has

been the hindrance. I am sorry, there-

fore, that some one else, better equipped

and had not been selected to execute the

task. Under more favorable circum-

stances, I would have considered it to be

part of the duty you had imposed upon me,

to have traced in his actions the progress

and gradual development of those formative

principles, which would have intelli-

gently imparted model and standard les-

sons unto others, and to have sketched a

rapid daguerotype likeness of him, both

as a man and a Mason, even rating in the

portraiture some of those beautiful moral

features which particularized him while

living, and which associate his memory so

pleasantly in all our hearts, now that he is

dead.

I can not, therefore, promise you more

than a *rejuvenation* in simple form of

some of the historical incidents of his life.

I have learned that he was born in Hunt-

ington, Huntington county, Pennsylvania,

in the month of November, A. D. 1833,

and that owing to a painful family dispo-

sition, he was thrown upon the world and

his own resources, at an early age. In

this rough but testing school of discipline,

he doubled his qualities of habit of self-

reliance, of energy, patience, and perse-

verance, which characterized him through-

life. I suppose that many thousands of

similarly circumstanced have lived, like him,

to regard such early trials as the greatest

of benefactions. Bitterness in the bud is

necessary to elaborate fragrance for the

blossom, and value in the fruit. When

only fifteen years of age, together with a

younger brother, he crossed the Ohio river

and sought the home of a relative who

resided in the county of Seneca, and in

the vicinity of the present town of Tiffin,

through life the sincere respect and regard

of his medical associates—and this is to

write for him a volume of commendations

in the far west. If any particular

branch of his profession obtained a pre-

ponderance in his liking, over others, it

was surgery. He was "cleverly trained,"

among the professions for the nice skills ex-

hibited in the management of such cases,

and for the bold yet delicate tact of his op-

erations. Histories of some of his cases,

written out by himself for the press, elicited

the highest eulogistic notices from the leading

medical journals of the Union.

In A. D. 1832, he was elected a repre-

sentative from this county, in the General

Assembly of the State, and in the follow-

ing year he received the appointment of Clerk

of the Court of Common Pleas for the said

county. When removed with his family

to Lancaster. He held this office for the

constitutional term of seven years, and

discharged its various duties with diligence

and fidelity, to the entire satisfaction of

editors, attorneys, and the court, continu-

ing during the same period to answer all

urgent professional calls that were made

upon him. He was the recipient at sun-

dry times, of various honorary and distinc-

tive notices from medical and literary in-

stitutions in Ohio, attesting to his moral

worth and standing, and of the high ap-

preciation with which he was regarded

professionally and as a useful public citi-

zen. Similar marks of trust were confer-

red upon him by the government of the

State, and its Executive. As he advanced

in years, and his judgment matured

and ripened, he became a privileged ex-

aminer for all professional distinctions. —

Besides, those "seats of venerable learning,"

were few in number, and at remote dis-

tances, he was the "thun for the Atlantic States."

A young man living in "the wilderness of the

West," as Ohio used to be called, even if

he could command the means, could not

command the leisure for the vast of pre-

cious time which they required. Home

duties were the paramount duties then;

each day was consecrated to its indispen-

sable revolving labors. Fields had to be

won from the primal forests, and both sub-

jected to agricultural uses, as the abso-

lute requirements of life. There was no

allowable exemption from these rugged

ministrations on the part of any one to

whom they were possible.

If during the non-working days, and

long nights of winter, some intervals for

study were afforded, the opportunities to

make them available were generally me-

agre in the extreme. Scientific books were

unobtainable luxuries; academies of instruc-

tion, were imaginary existences; and if a

stray school-master happened occasionally to

be sought abroad, his stock of intellec-

tual warms, like his personal habits, was

for the most part of the coarsest mat-

ter, primitively out, and awkwardly put

together.

Under such discouraging circumstances,

sufficient to have paralyzed the efforts of

most youthful minds, our Brother gather-

ed only additional stimuli to his exertions,

and converted them into the elements of

success. — After a sojourn of two years a-

mong them, he bade adieu to his kindred

and friends, and proceeded to Columbus,

where he commenced the study of medi-

cine, in the office and under the tuition of

Dr. Samuel Parsons, a gentleman distin-

guished for his high professional attain-

ments. Those days of student life were

halcyon days to young Kreider. He was

accustomed to picture them with a glowing

pen, and I have heard him narrate their

pleasing incidents with a grateful satisfac-

tion and delight; in fact, they opened up

a continental terra incognita, which lay

strewn out in beautiful luxuriance be-

fore him. For the first time in his life, he

was domiciliated amidst the priceless

treasures of well-assorted libraries, and in-

trofied into the wondrous enchantments

of English classical literature. The mas-

ter minds that ruled over the domains of

poetry and thought became his familiar

associates; whenever the graver and more

serious labors of professional study ne-

cessary, he would frequently ride thirty, forty,

and fifty miles a day to complete his list

of calls; he was his own assistant, and ob-

liged to compound as well as to prescribe

his medicines; and frequently to mix and

administer them; and so it was with refer-

ence to every curative measure which the

exigencies of his patients required, whether

to amputate a limb, open a vein, extract a

tooth, spread a cataplasm, or dress a

blister. To such a practice of daily uses,

our Brother devoted some of the best and

most energetic years of his life. He ob-

tained in the highest measure the confi-

dence of the public, and won and retained

through life the sincere respect and regard

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